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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS

Allen Carl, et al.

EXAMINER:

Priddy, Michael B. RECENTER HOTOG

U.S.S.N.:

10/019,265

GROUP:

3732

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FOR:

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR SPINAL FIXATION

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EXAMINING GROUP 3732 RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION **UNDER 37 C.F.R. 116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Sir:

The following is in response to the Final Office Action mailed March 24, 2004, in the above referenced application.

09/28/2004 HALI11

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86.00 OP

Applicant: Allen Carl, et al. U.S.S.N.: 10/019,265

Response to Final Office Action

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Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 19 of this paper.